

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS

BY

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BEFORE

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I WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU TONIGHT ABOUT A SUBJECT THAT HAS BEEN THE TOPIC OF A GREAT MANY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES AND TELEVISION REPORTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS -- OUR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

IT HAS BECOME ALMOST FASHIONABLE IN THE MEDIA TO CRITICIZE OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES -- PARTICULARLY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. BUT I THINK IT'S TIME WE ALSO FOCUS ON A TRUTH ABOUT CIA -- AND THAT TRUTH IS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS THE BEST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE IN THE WORLD -- THAT WE ARE PROVIDING AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TO THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND OTHER POLICY-MAKERS THE INTELLIGENCE EVALUATIONS THEY NEED TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS THAT MUST BE MADE IN THE COMPLEX WORLD OF TODAY.

LET'S LOOK AT THE MECHANISM THAT HAS DEVELOPED FOR GATHERING AND PRODUCING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

AFTER WORLD WAR TWO WE WERE DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW A PEARL HARBOR TO HAPPEN AGAIN -- NOT TO LET THIS COUNTRY BE SURPRISED BECAUSE THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY EVALUATED AND BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

THAT'S WHY IN 1947 CONGRESS PASSED THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT WHICH CREATED THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY -- TO BRING UNDER ONE ROOF THE EVALUATION OF ALL INFORMATION

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AVAILABLE AND THE PRODUCTION OF WHAT WE CALL FINISHED NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE CIA WAS NOT ESTABLISHED TO TAKE OVER THE VERY VALID FUNCTIONS OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS. THOSE ORGANIZATIONS EXIST TODAY AND ARE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEY SERVE. BUT THE CIA WAS INTENDED TO BE -- AND IS -- THE CENTRAL POINT FOR PRODUCING NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, THAT IS, INTELLIGENCE PRODUCED TO SERVE NATIONAL POLICYMAKERS AND INTELLIGENCE OF INTEREST TO MORE THAN ONE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

THE 1947 ACT GAVE THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE TWO HATS: ONE AS DIRECTOR OF THE CIA, THE OTHER AS HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. IN 1971 -- WITH THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY AND COST OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION COLLECTION -- THE PRESIDENT INSTRUCTED THE DIRECTOR TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN COORDINATING RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE -- THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMPONENTS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THE FBI, THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, AND THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. AND IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTIVES PROVIDED NEW ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT STRENGTHEN THE DCI'S MANAGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.

LET'S LOOK AT THESE FOR A MOMENT:

THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE, WHICH I CHAIR,

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HAS BEEN CREATED TO CONTROL BUDGET PREPARATION AND RESOURCE APPLICATION FOR THE ENTIRE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM. THIS COMMITTEE MANAGES OUR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND ESTABLISHES POLICY FOR COLLECTION AND PRODUCTION OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

AN OPERATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP WAS ESTABLISHED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. THIS GROUP ALSO REVIEWS AND APPROVES SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION OPERATIONS. MEMBERS OF THIS BOARD INCLUDE THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AS WELL AS THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

THERE IS ALSO AN INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD OF THREE PROMINENT PRIVATE CITIZENS. THIS BOARD RECEIVES AND CONSIDERS REPORTS BY THE INSPECTORS GENERAL AND THE GENERAL COUNSELS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CONCERNING ANY ACTIVITIES THAT RAISE QUESTIONS OF LEGALITY OR PROPRIETY. THIS BOARD ENSURES THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT ARE PROPERLY ADVISED ON THESE MATTERS.

ANOTHER CHANGE IS THAT THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE NOW HAS TWO DEPUTIES -- ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE CIA, THE OTHER RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING ME IN ACCOMPLISHING MY ROLE AS HEAD OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

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WE'VE DISCUSSED THE CONTROL MECHANISM -- NOW, VERY BRIEFLY, THE SPECIFIC ROLE OF THE CIA.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROVIDE US TODAY WITH THE MEANS OF COLLECTING INFORMATION THAT WERE UNKNOWN TO US EVEN A FEW YEARS AGO. YET DESPITE THESE FANTASTIC ADVANCES, THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE. WE MUST HAVE TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE INFORMATION FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND ACCESS TO PLANS AND INTENTIONS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THAT MIGHT BE ADVERSE TO U.S. INTERESTS. WE MUST ALSO HAVE PEOPLE WHO GATHER INFORMATION FROM PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE SOURCES--- FOREIGN JOURNALS, LIBRARIES AND SO FORTH.

WE MUST ALSO HAVE HIGHLY EDUCATED AND EXPERIENCED PEOPLE TO EVALUATE THE INFORMATION WE OBTAIN. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE SUCH PEOPLE IN CIA TODAY, APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS WITH CIA HAVE NEVER BEEN GREATER. I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTRACT PEOPLE OF CHARACTER AND ABILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR CAPABILITY OF PRODUCING THE BEST POSSIBLE ANALYSIS AND EVALUATIONS.

EVERY SO OFTEN SOME ARTICLE OR INDIVIDUAL CHARGES THAT CIA HAS SLANTED INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS NOT SO. OUR PEOPLE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN PRODUCING UNFETTERED EVALUATIONS. WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO THE PRESIDENT, "THIS IS THE WAY IT IS." WE DO NOT BEND OR ALTER ANY ANALYSIS TO CONFORM TO SOME POLICY. IT IS OUR INFORMATION -- PAINSTAKINGLY COLLECTED AND ANALYZED -- THAT ASSISTS OUR NATIONAL LEADERS IN MAKING POLICY.

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THE WORLD IS NOT YET A PERFECT PLACE. PROBABLY IT NEVER WILL BE. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT LIKELY TO BECOME A UTOPIAN WORLD WITHIN OUR LIFETIME OR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AND WHILE WE ARE STRIVING TO MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO A WORLD OF PEACE AND SECURITY AND TRUST, WE FIND THAT WE STILL NEED -- QUITE CONSISTENT WITH THIS STRIVING -- TO HAVE NATIONAL SECURITY SECOND TO NONE.

TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY, WE MUST ABOVE ALL HAVE KNOWLEDGE. WE MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTENTIONS OF THOSE WHO WISH US HARM, AND KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT POTENTIAL THEY MAY POSSESS TO DO US HARM. WE NEED THAT KNOWLEDGE SO THAT THE LEADERS OF OUR NATION MAY PREPARE POLICIES AND ACTIONS OF OUR OWN, SO THAT WE MAY ADOPT POLICIES AND ACTIONS THAT PROTECT AND PROMOTE OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PEACE AND SECURITY, AND HOPEFULLY, TRUST. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO ACTING ON THE BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE IS ACTING ON THE BASIS OF IGNORANCE -- CLEARLY, IN MY OPINION, UNACCEPTABLE.

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THE ONE ELEMENT OF THE PROFESSION OF INTELLIGENCE, THAT ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, THAT HAS TROUBLED US AS CITIZENS OF A FREE NATION IS THE NECESSARY -- INDEED, ESSENTIAL -- ELEMENT OF SECRECY THAT IS INHERENT IN OUR PROFESSION. IT IS NO WONDER THAT EVEN THE VERY FACT OF SECRECY TENDS TO STIMULATE SUSPICION AND GIVE AN AURA OF SENSATIONALISM, AND THEREFORE OFTEN AN ENTIRELY ERRONEOUS PERSPECTIVE TO VARIOUS DISCLOSURES AND FINDINGS, OCCASIONALLY, IF I MAY SAY SO, WITHOUT DUE REGARD

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FOR THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF EVIDENCE, I CHALLENGE THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT SECRECY IN INTELLIGENCE WORK IS INCONSISTENT WITH FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY TO GIVE US A REALISTIC PREVIEW OF WHAT THIS NATION'S FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY WOULD LOOK LIKE IF WE ALONE IN THIS IMPERFECT WORLD DECIDED TO ABANDON THIS ESSENTIAL PROTECTION AGAINST OUR ADVERSARIES.

IF SECRECY IS ESSENTIAL, SO TOO, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS ACCOUNTABILITY. NO ACTIVITY OF OUR GOVERNMENT MAY BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT BEING SUBJECTED TO A RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES. WE NOW HAVE A FULLY EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT MECHANISM DEFINED BY THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER OF LAST FEBRUARY AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE CONGRESS, AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THESE PROCEDURES WORK. WHAT WE DO NOT HAVE IS A FULLY EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROTECTING THE SECRETS THAT ARE -- LIKE OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY -- AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THIS NATION'S INTELLIGENCE.

ACCOUNTABILITY IS ONE THING; RECKLESSNESS IS ANOTHER. IT IS NOT THOSE WHO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS SERVING ABROAD THAT ADD TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE SOCIETY. IT IS NOT THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEY CAN ON THEIR OWN JUDGMENT DISCLOSE INFORMATION WHICH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR SECURITY THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESPONSIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE. AND IT IS NOT THOSE WHO DETERMINEDLY DENY THE GOOD WILL AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT BY DWELLING ON ABUSES OF THE PAST THAT ENHANCE THE MECHANISM OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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WHICH THIS FREE SOCIETY HAS CREATED FOR THE CONTROL OF LEGITIMATELY SECRET GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. I DO NOT TAKE ISSUE WITH THE NEED FOR INVESTIGATING AND CORRECTING PAST ERRORS, BUT I WILL OPPOSE THOSE WHO SEEK TO DESTROY US OUTRIGHT AND THOSE WHO, IN THE NAME OF INFORMING AND PROTECTING THE PUBLIC, HUNT FOR YET ANOTHER HEADLINE EVEN IF IT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICAN LIVES AND OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF US, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HAVE FAITH IN THE STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, FOR WHILE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS MAY BE USED TO SOW SEEDS OF WEAKNESS AND DISTRUST, THEY EXIST IN ORDER TO MAKE US STRONG AND SELF-RELIANT, AND THEY HAVE PROVED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN THE 200 YEARS OF OUR HISTORY.

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YOU ALL KNOW SOME OF THE PROBLEMS I FACE IN THIS JOB. I WISH YOU COULD ALSO SHARE IN THE PRIDE I FEEL FOR OUR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND THE COMFORT I GET, AS AN AMERICAN, IN SEEING THE TREMENDOUS TALENT WE HAVE IN THE CIA AND ACROSS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

RECENTLY PRESIDENT FORD SENT A MESSAGE TO A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. IN THIS MESSAGE HE SAID: "THE UNITED STATES CANNOT AFFORD ANYTHING BUT THE VERY BEST INTELLIGENCE IF WE WISH TO PRESERVE PEACE AND FREEDOM." HE SAID: "I HAVE KNOWN MANY DEDICATED AND CAPABLE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OFFIERS. THEY ARE A CREDIT

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TO OUR COUNTRY. THEY SERVE QUIETLY, WITHOUT PUBLIC ACCLAIM, AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS ARE OFTEN NEVER KNOWN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I CAN ONLY SECOND THESE REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT. WE DO HAVE THE VERY BEST INTELLIGENCE IN THE WORLD. AND WE DO HAVE VERY CAPABLE OFFICERS WHO FOR MANY YEARS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY DEDICATED TO PROVIDING THE CRITICAL INFORMATION THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER POLICYMAKERS IN OUR GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE.

I WISH YOU COULD TALK TO SOME OF OUR EMPLOYEES WHOSE HEADS ARE HIGH AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS OF VICIOUS BATTERING. THEY ARE AS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED TO THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST AS OUR STRONGEST CRITICS, BUT THEY HAVE RETAINED A PERSPECTIVE. THEY KNOW THE NEED FOR A STRONG INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AND THEY ARE PREPARED TO WITHSTAND THE BATTERING, IF THAT IS NECESSARY, TO WORK FOR A CAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN.

I WISH YOU COULD HAVE MET THE SON OF RICHARD WELCH. MR. WELCH WAS GUNNED DOWN FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE OF HIS NAME BY PEOPLE BENT ON DESTROYING CIA. HIS SON KNEW WELL THAT HIS FATHER HAD DIED FOR A CAUSE IN WHICH HE DEEPLY BELIEVED.

AND I HOPE THAT INCREASINGLY ALSO YOU WILL DRAW REASSURANCE AND PRIDE FROM THE MANNER IN WHICH THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NOT ONLY RESPONDS TO THE DIRECTION OF THE ELECTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE BUT ALSO IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS.

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I BELIEVE THAT AMERICA'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE IS A GREAT NATIONAL ASSET. AMERICA'S INTELLIGENCE IS GOOD; WE ARE WORKING HARD TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER. I CONTINUE TO THINK THAT IT IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR NATION'S DESIRE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY THAT WE MUST HAVE AND THAT WE DO HAVE INTELLIGENCE SECOND TO NONE IN THE WORLD. YOUR UNDERSTANDING, SUPPORT AND TRUST ARE ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SUCCESS.